

Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claim 2 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1 through 11 and add Claim 12 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus comprising:

a movable image bearing member;

image forming means for forming an ~~a developer~~ image on said image bearing member with toner; ~~member;~~

a transfer medium ~~an intermediate transfer member~~ on which the ~~developer~~ image on said image bearing member is transferred by said transfer medium contacting with said image bearing member while said ~~intermediate~~ transfer medium ~~member~~ is moving at a predetermined surficial moving speed different from a surficial moving speed of said image bearing member; and

control means for controlling said image forming means to form, on said image bearing member, [[form]] a predetermined image having a predetermined pattern adjacent to prior to formation of a normal image formed by said image forming means and downstream of the normal image with respect to a moving direction of said image bearing member. ~~image.~~

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls said image forming means to form the [[said]] predetermined image in such a way that the predetermined image is adjacent to the [[said]] normal image.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, [[2,]] wherein said control means controls said image forming means to form the [[said]] predetermined image in an area, which is outside a normal image formation area, and which is other than an area downstream of the normal image formation area with respect to the an image moving direction of said image bearing member. direction.

4. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein in a case that the [[said]] predetermined image is formed within a normal image formation area, said control means controls said image forming means to form a composite image of the [[said]] normal image and the [[said]] predetermined image.

5. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 12, [[1,]] further comprising transferring means for transferring the ~~developer~~ image on said intermediate transfer member onto a transferring material, wherein said control means controls said image forming means to form said predetermined image in an area on said intermediate transfer member to which the transferring material is to be opposed, and not to form said predetermined image out of the area on said intermediate transfer member to

which the transferring material is to be opposed, ~~opposed~~ at the time of transferring by said transferring means.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control means controls said image forming means to form a dot ~~said predetermined image as an image in which dots of dot developer images each having a unit area formed by one dot or a plurality of dots are uniformly dispersed.~~

7. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said control means controls said image forming means to form ~~[[said]] dot developer images at predetermined positions within a predetermined area~~ respective dot areas each dimensioned to extend by m dots in a direction perpendicular to the an image moving direction of said image bearing member and n dots in the the image moving direction of said image bearing member, direction; wherein said dot ~~developer images in the predetermined area, dot areas;~~ arranged in the direction perpendicular to the image moving direction of said image bearing member, direction; ~~out of said dot areas are in the same positions, positions in respective dot areas;~~ while the dot ~~said dot developer images in the predetermined area, in dot areas;~~ arranged in the direction of said image bearing member, image moving direction; ~~out of said dot areas are in positions sequentially shifted by k dots in a [[the]] direction perpendicular to the image moving direction of said image bearing member, direction;~~ where m, n and k are integers.

8. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 7, wherein a greatest common divisor of ~~[[said]]~~ m and ~~[[said]]~~ k is 1.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of image forming means, wherein ~~developer~~ images formed by said plurality of image forming means are sequentially transferred onto said ~~intermediate~~ transfer ~~medium, member~~, wherein said control means controls said plurality of image forming means so that only one image forming means ~~[[out]]~~ of said plurality of image forming ~~means forms the means, to form said~~ predetermined image, said one image forming means forming ~~an a-developer~~ image to be transferred first onto said ~~intermediate~~ transfer ~~medium, member~~.

10. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said one image forming means that forms the ~~[[said]]~~ predetermined image forms the image with yellow toner ~~yellow developer image~~.

11. **(Currently Amended)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, comprising a plurality of image forming means, wherein ~~developer~~ images formed by said plurality of image forming means are sequentially transferred onto said ~~intermediate~~ transfer ~~medium, member~~, wherein in a case that an image formation is performed by only one image forming means ~~[[out]]~~ of said plurality of image forming means, said control means controls said plurality of image forming means so that only said one image forming means performs the image formation. ~~to form said predetermined image~~.

--12. **(New)** An image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said transfer medium is an intermediate transfer member.--